

# APVMA NEWSLETTER

## Updates from the Board

Hello APVMA Members! We hope that you are having a successful start to your school year! This past month our president has been working with numerous clubs to get the APVMA Delegate program running, as well as searching for speakers for our 2020 Symposium. The vice president has finalized sponsorships with Ecolife, Veterinary Information Network, and VIDA Volunteer. The treasurer has been updating our excel sheets and continuing to keep track of membership dues. The secretary has been busy trying to add news aspects to the newsletter. The webmaster has been posting daily and updating the website.

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**SEPTEMBER 2019**

# A Letter from Our President

## Hello APVMA Members,

With the start of September, I am sure classes have started back for most of you. That being said I hope that classes are going well, and you are not too consumed by stress already.

For all the seniors out there the deadline to submit your VMCAS is quickly approaching. I finally made the big jump and hit submit in late August and let me tell you how liberating that felt! AAVMC has made sure that the VMCAS is easy to navigate and complete, but if you have any questions always feel free to post it to our Facebook Discussions Board.

In the past month we here at the APVMA have been working hard for you. We've been working to find awe-inspiring speakers for the 2020 symposium. We have been welcoming new clubs to the APVMA such as William Woods University of Fulton, Missouri and Morehead State University in Morehead, Kentucky. And I have been meeting with many of our new APVMA delegates.

Speaking of hard work I would like to take a moment to thank all of our APVMA Advisors who serve on our Advisory Board of Trustees; Dr. Robert Van Saun, Dr. Greg Fraley, and Dr. Chandra Williams. Because the executive board, which is made up of myself, a vice-president, treasurer, secretary, and webmaster, only serve one year, the advisors play an important role in maintaining our organization's memory. They help us through new situations and give us advice on how we have navigated issues in the past. This year we are looking for two new advisors to serve alongside our current advisors. If you know any pre-vet advisors who would fit this role please let me know at [americanpvmmapresident@gmail.com](mailto:americanpvmmapresident@gmail.com).

I am sure for many students September is often a stressful month with new classes, time management during school, and the start of football season. But there is no reason to be overwhelmed, embrace the new semester with its many challenges and learning opportunities, and if you need help check out our social media pages every Wednesday for our Wellness Wednesday posts. These posts will give you new strategies to destress, manage your time, and to find the boost of inspiration you need to finish strong.

Best Wishes,

Sam

# **APVMA DELEGATE WANTED!**

Do you know a leader within your club that would be interested in putting their skills to the test on a national level? Beginning this year, the APVMA is starting an all new delegate program.

## **What's in it for you?**

- A National Leadership Title
- A Discounted Symposium Registration Rate
- An Amazing Opportunity for Leadership Experience
- Providing your Club with a Voice on the National Level
- Recognition at the National Symposium
- Offer Topics and Ideas for what you want to see at the Symposium
- Get your Foot in the Door for APVMA Executive Board Positions

## **What are we looking for from you?**

- One Delegate to Represent each Pre-Vet Club
- A leader and gamechanger who can get information out about the APVMA
- Someone who will check in regularly and report back to their APVMA Executive
- Someone with innovative ideas about the future of APVMA
- A good communicator who can work with representatives from other clubs

## **Want More Details?**

Email President Sam Johnson at  
[americanpvmapresident@gmail.com](mailto:americanpvmapresident@gmail.com)

# Wondering How You Can Finance Vet School?

Worry no longer! Through our partnership with the AAVMC the APVMA is able to give away \$4,000 in Scholarships this year.

## Outstanding Club Community Service Award

This award is for APVMA member pre-veterinary clubs. This award will come with a \$500 award to be used to support club activities and the number of awards provided is at the discretion of the APVMA Executive Board. The award will be based on how well your club has helped to "promote and stimulate interest in veterinary medicine within your community." The winner(s) will be announced at the APVMA National Symposium.

## Outstanding Senior Award

This award is for students belonging to APVMA member pre-veterinary clubs or students who are registered as non-club affiliated members. The candidate must have senior status within their institution. This is not a monetary award and the number of awards provided is at the discretion of the APVMA Executive Board. The winner(s) will be announced at the APVMA National Symposium.

## Outstanding Club Community Service Award

This award is intended for students who are members of the APVMA and have a passion for the One Health Initiative. Scholarships will depend on the number of qualified applicants. This scholarship will be awarded based on efforts in the area of One Health and future goals toward it. The winner(s) shall be determined by the APVMA Executive Board. The winners will be announced at the APVMA National Symposium.

## One Health Scholarship Application

This award is intended for students who are members of the APVMA and have a passion for the One Health Initiative. Scholarships will depend on the number of qualified applicants. This scholarship will be awarded based on efforts in the area of One Health and future goals toward it. The winner(s) shall be determined by the APVMA Executive Board. The winners will be announced at the APVMA National Symposium.

## Research Scholarship Application

This award is intended for students who are members of the APVMA and have an interest in research involving animals and the veterinary field. This scholarship will be awarded based upon current or previous research being performed by the student and what they have learned from it. The two winners shall be determined by the APVMA Executive Board. The winners will be announced at the APVMA National Symposium.

**APPLICATIONS OPEN NOW!**

**September 2019**

# **Attention the APVMA is still looking for a host for the 2021 Symposium!**

Do you know of a Vet School that would like to show off their campus to close to 800 students? If you know of any vet school that would like to host the 2021 APVMA Symposium, please let Sam Johnson, the APVMA President, know at [americanpvmapresident@gmail.com](mailto:americanpvmapresident@gmail.com)

We are very flexible with our Symposium Hosts and we will do all that we can to accommodate them. This is a great opportunity for vet schools to meet prospective Pre-Vet students.

**September 2019**

# **Warm, Not-So-Fuzzy, and Gigantic**

**By: Erica Ward, DVM**

Like many in the profession, I knew I wanted to be a veterinarian from a young age. I grew up in a Michigan farming community and was never far away from animals. When I was 7 years old, my parents signed me up for “Farm Camp”. This was the start of something great! The owners, who I referred to as “Farmer Sandy” and “Farmer Brian” as well as the animals on their little farm, inspired me to dream of becoming a veterinarian. I remember my first year attending farm camp - taking ownership in daily farm chores which included bottle feeding lambs and calves, learning about the animals of the day, and of course spending every moment I could playing with the kittens. I returned summer after summer and I always took a special interest in the medical care of the animals. As my love for the animals and the farm grew, so did my involvement with the farm. I started taking weekly riding lessons and eventually leased one of their horses. I then returned to farm camp as a counselor, began teaching riding lessons, and finally became the assistant camp director. I learned firsthand that working on a farm is not always kittens and picnics. Over the years I had been covered from head to toe in Turkey droppings, had fallen off horses more times than I can count and had lost my weight in sweat from helping fill the hayloft with fresh bales of hay. I think back on every memory as an inspiration and a part of my story that led me to where I am today.

In high school, I worked at a racing stable and landed a job cleaning kennels at my local veterinary clinic. I enjoyed hearing the stories of the large animal vets as they dropped off their surgery packs and I took every opportunity to help or shadow the small animal vets. I attended Michigan State University for my undergraduate degree and continued to shadow veterinarians in a variety of settings. During the summer of my sophomore year, I participated in a month-long coral reef ecology and conservation study abroad program in Egypt. I loved every moment of the experience and it pushed me to explore our world more. During my last year of undergraduate studies, I attended Lincoln University in New Zealand studying animal health. While in New Zealand, I was accepted to Veterinary School at Michigan State University, accepted the offer, and started the following fall.

My journey with elephants began the second summer of vet school when I organized a trip to volunteer at an elephant sanctuary in Thailand. I had no idea that my life would be forever changed. I was deeply touched by the plight of these gentle giants and as it turns out, I gained more in those few weeks than I could have ever imagined. I returned to Thailand the following summer for three months of clinical rotations and again for my last vacation before graduation. During that last visit, I was offered a job at the elephant sanctuary after completing my degree. After some consideration, I decided to take the leap.



Four days after graduation, I packed my bags and set off for Thailand to become an elephant vet! I was extremely fortunate to have an excellent mentor for my first year at the sanctuary. He was extremely generous with his knowledge and gave me a solid foundation of skills and information to work off of. I worked full time at the sanctuary for just under three years treating everything from elephant herpesvirus to foot infections. I loved getting to know each elephant individually and had the pleasure of working with an amazing elephant trainer, Chrissy Pratt, who worked kindly and professionally with the elephants. Using positive reinforcement target training, Chrissy would train an elephant to participate in their medical care in a safe and rewarding way built on mutual respect and lots of bananas. Towards the end of my time at the elephant sanctuary, I realized one of my favorite parts of the job was teaching and working with the veterinary volunteers.

In 2016, I found my dream job that brings three of my favorite passions together- veterinary medicine, teaching, and travel. I am currently the Head Veterinarian and Academic Director of Loop Abroad. I develop curriculum for, oversee, and instruct courses in Thailand, South Africa, and Australia. In 2017, I also founded a non-profit organization dedicated to veterinary outreach for elephants, wildlife and domestic animals in Thailand and around the world. I've worked on elephant related research projects, organized several high volume spay-neuter clinics, and get to work with incredibly accomplished veterinarians and passionate students. I love the variety of my work and seeing what a group can accomplish together. My favorite part of my job is teaching elephant related courses to pre-veterinary and veterinary students at a number of sanctuaries and elephant camps that Loop Abroad is partnered with. My advice to pre-veterinary students is to keep your options open, jump at opportunities when they present themselves, and don't be afraid to make your own path.





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## Our 2020 APVMA National Symposium

Our National Symposium is being held on **February 28-29**! Mark your calendars and get ready for registration at the end of next month!



## VMCAS Deadline

For those of you applying for vet school this cycle, the application deadline is September 17th, but we advise getting it done before then!

Good Luck!



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## Fun Fact of the Month

Did you know...male Palm Cockatoos make drumsticks out of seedpod twigs so that they can add bass to their songs?



Source: Mental Floss

## Miss the Apply Smarter Webinar?

If you missed the Apply Smarter Webinar just [click here](#) to watch it!

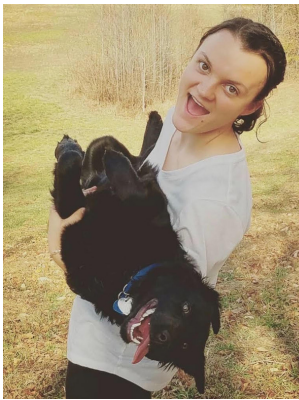


## NC State's Pre-Vet Club



### President:

Samantha Anderson is majoring in Animal Science at NC State University and currently works at a local emergency hospital. After vet school she would like to work with small animals and do some mobile work with small ruminants. She enjoys emergency medicine but could also see herself owning a general practice. Outside of class and work, she loves spending time with her 4 dogs and her family.



### Vice President:

Christian Williams is a senior in Animal Science at NC State University. When she's at home, she works at a small animal clinic and also helps out at her family's goat farm. She is a Goodnight Transfer Scholar as well as a volunteer with both the Small Ruminant Education Unit at NC State and the Turtle Rescue Team at NC State's vet school. She hopes to pursue a career as a mixed animal practitioner near her hometown and have a farm of her own someday.

**Want your club featured?**

Just email  
[apvmasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:apvmasecretary@gmail.com)  
for more details!

## Club Highlights

NC State's Pre-Vet Club hosts a multitude of events for their members and the community. They hold Pre-Vets United every year, an event for all NC pre-vet clubs to get together, network, and partake in events and games. The club maintains an impressive peer mentor program, pairing freshman members with upper class members to allow for an easier adjustment as well as having someone to look up to and talk to throughout the year. Their club also attends the National APVMA Symposium annually and helps members become successful in getting accepted/attending vet schools.





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# Thank You to Our Sponsors!

